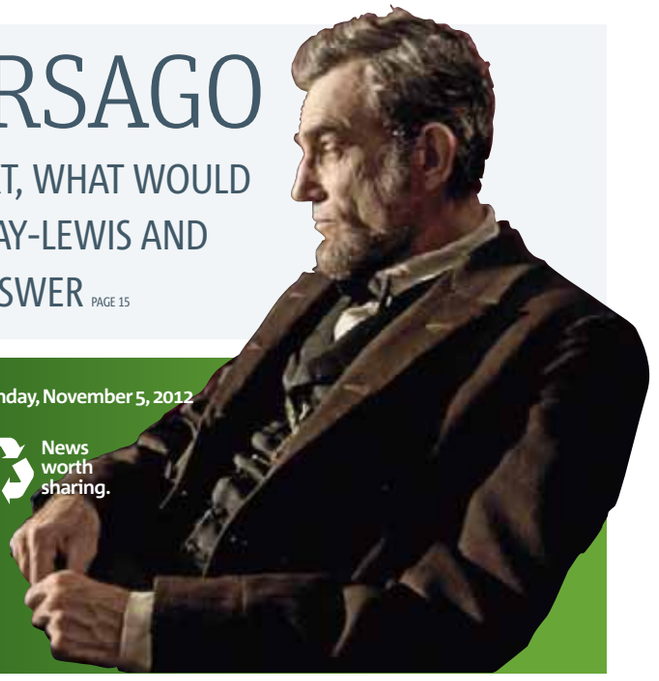
Wise beyond their years

Without much life experience or any schooling to speak of, toddlers have a lot of knowledge to share PAGE 21

4SCR&7YRSAGO

IF ABE LINCOLN COULD TEXT, WHAT WOULD HE WRITE? ONLY DANIEL DAY-LEWIS AND SALLY FIELD KNOW THE ANSWER PAGE 15



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Monday, November 5, 2012

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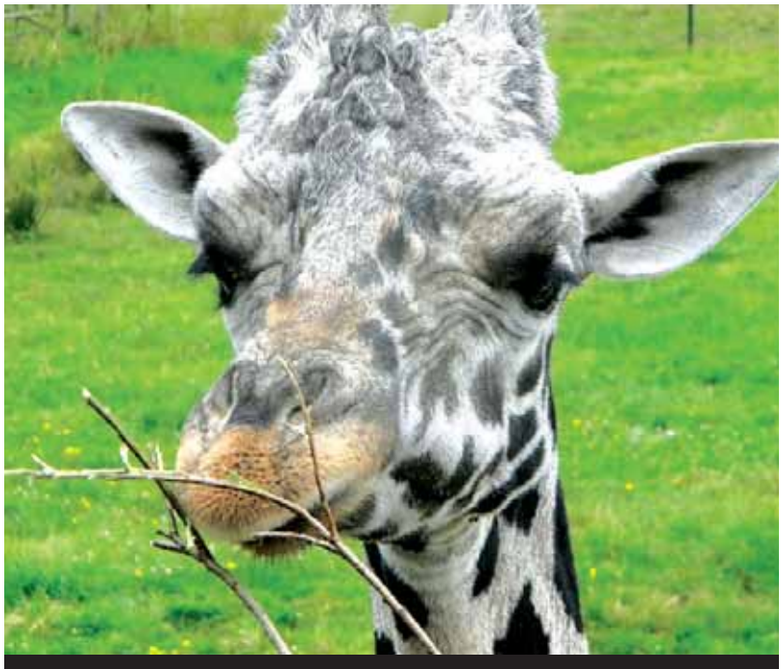

JAFARI FOUND DEAD

Jafari, a 12-year-old male giraffe, was found dead at the Greater Vancouver Zoo Sunday, despite appearing to be healthy. His partner and his son died at the same zoo less than a year ago. See story on page 3. CONTRIBUTED

B.C. wedding, pot industries could take a hit

U.S. election. Washington state could soon legalize same-sex marriage and marijuana, spelling trouble for competition north of the border

B.C.'s coveted role as the only same-sex wedding destination in the Pacific Northwest might go up in smoke this week.

Washington is poised to legalize both same-sex marriage and marijuana when voters hit the polls in the presidential election Tuesday, moves that could make competition tougher for B.C.'s legal wedding tourism and illegal weed-growing industries.

More than half of registered voters plan to say yes to same-sex weddings (57 per cent) and weed (56 per cent), according to a poll conducted by the University of Washington from Oct. 18 to 31.

Quoted

"I think affirming civil rights anywhere is a positive step in the right direction."

Angus Praught, owner of GayVan.com Travel Marketing, on legalizing same-sex marriage

Hundreds of Americans have wed in B.C. since the province legalized same-sex marriage in 2003, said Angus Praught, owner of GayVan.com Travel Marketing. The new law could impact tourism if couples from Seattle decide to marry at home, Praught said.

"At the same time, we're a really great place for a honeymoon," Praught said. "I think affirming civil rights anywhere is a positive step in the right direction."

Local businesses will just have to get more creative marketing to couples south of the border, added Mark Robins of GayVancouver.net.

The marijuana measure would allow the drug to be grown by licensed farmers and sold with 25 per cent sales tax to those older than 21.

If it passes, it could have a "serious impact on the marijuana industry in B.C." because Washington is a "significant market for our goods," said Rob Gordon, SFU's director of criminology. People in Washington would adopt B.C.'s growing techniques and buy the American product, which could cut B.C. producers from the market, he said.

"B.C. bud will become Washington bud," Gordon said.

It will be easier for Washington to export marijuana to other states since the drug won't have to cross an international border, Gordon said.

"I hope it wins," he said, noting that the federal government will have the power to quash the legislation even if voters approve it. "I see no virtue at all in continuing with a failed policy of prohibition." **EMILY JACKSON/METRO**

On alert after bomb scare

Transit Police presence will be heightened following the discovery of a bomb on the Expo Line PAGE 3

She's crazy like a Fox

Vivica A. Fox says her new hidden-camera show, Prank My Mom, lets her channel her comic side PAGE 16

Movember madness

Not just for Mo Bros: Mo Sistas can also play a crucial role during the campaign PAGE 22

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Vancouver airport

Two hospitalized after reportedly swallowing cocaine at YVR

Instead of travelling through customs at the Vancouver International Airport, two people who swallowed a "significant amount of cocaine" were rushed to hospital Sunday morning, according to ScanBC.

Paramedics and fire services responded to a call Sunday at 1:30 a.m., the radio-scanning source reported on Twitter. Two patients were transported to hospital on a non-emergency basis, B.C. Ambulance Services spokesperson Catherine Bianco said Sunday. She couldn't comment on their health or confirm if they ingested drugs. RCMP are investigating the incident, according to YVR media relations.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Greater Vancouver Zoo

Giraffe dies nearly one year after losing son, partner

A 12-year-old male giraffe died at the Vancouver Zoo Sunday, less than one year after his partner and son died at the same zoo.

Jafari's death shocked and devastated animal care staff when they found his lifeless body in a heated barn at 7:30 a.m., general manager Jody Henderson said. Jafari was healthy, she said, and there were no signs anything was wrong or that he was mourning his partner's death.

"Honestly we don't know anything right now," Henderson said. Preliminary necropsies on the other giraffes didn't uncover causes of death, so samples have been sent to various labs for additional testing, said Henderson.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

There will be a significant increase in Transit Police through the first few days of the week, making sweeps of bus terminals and stations after a bomb was found on the tracks between Scott Road and Gateway stations Friday. INSET: The explosive found on the track. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO; INSET: CONTRIBUTED/TRANSIT POLICE

Cops on alert after transit-bomb scare

Surrey. Officers must monitor more than 133 kilometres of track, 57 stations, 3 bridges and 3 tunnels

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Expect to see stronger transit-police presence on TransLink routes through the first half of the week in the wake of a "dangerous explosive" found on the Expo Line in Surrey Friday.

Transit police spokesperson Anne Drennan said there is still no motive or suspect tied to the makeshift bomb found at about 3 p.m. on the guideway between Scott Road and Gateway stations.

"We still don't know how the device got up onto the guideway next to tracks," Drennan said Sunday.

The bomb could not have been thrown from the train, she added, and investigators are also attempting to narrow down a timeline of when it was placed on the guideway.

Drennan also said the possibility of installing more cameras and signage will be discussed.

Officers have checked social media sites to see if there's someone who had made any threats or bragged about being responsible for the bomb, but found nothing so far.

Officers will continue with sweeps of all stations, bus loops, and terminals, as well as canvassing businesses and residences in the Surrey area.

This is no easy feat, Drennan said, because officers are dealing with 133.5 kilometres of track, 57 stations, three dedicated bridges and three tunnels with the Expo, Millennium and Canada lines.

Drennan also noted that there was no reduction in ridership over the weekend despite Friday's bomb scare.

Hours after finding the explosive, another suspicious package was found at Metrotown station. Police determined it was just a piece of PVC drainage pipe.

Police shut down Main Street SkyTrain station for about half an hour Saturday after yet another suspicious package was found that turned out to be a handbag with a watch attached to the outside of it.

Drennan said video surveillance showed that a domestic dispute the previous morning had led to the purse ending up on the tracks.

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No legal map when it comes to tracking theft

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVE STARRETT/METRO

Anti-theft software. Tracking programs in electronic devices can help locate your stolen stuff, but it isn't enough to nab the thieves, police say

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Fear and anger.

Those are two of the immediate emotions you feel after finding out an intruder has broken into your home and rifled through your belongings in search of anything and everything that can be sold for a quick buck.

Frustration.

That's the emotion two Vancouver men felt soon after being burgled, when they realized anti-theft software on their electronic devices was little use to police, despite literally drawing a map to the stolen goods.

A day of birthday celebrations was ruined for Josh Shevlin when he returned home on Oct. 20 to discover he and his roommates had been robbed.

Missing from their home, near Commercial Drive and Broadway, were laptops, jewellery, electronic gadgets and keepsakes such as Second World War medals that had belonged to his roommate's grandmother.

"You feel a bit violated, I guess," Shevlin said. "You don't know what to feel."

Naturally, police were called, reports taken and life for the roommates went on, with little hope their possessions would be returned.

Until Shevlin received an email two days later. It was a photo of a woman who had just opened his stolen laptop. It also showed the co-ordinates for the Wi-Fi network his computer was signed into courtesy of his Mackeeper anti-theft software.

The program let Shevlin know each time his computer was used since the theft and plotted the last known location on an online map.

At least as far as his laptop was concerned, Shevlin considered it case closed.

"I had a picture of the lady's face, I had the location of the network and information of the computer being used," Shevlin, originally from Australia, said. "We went to the police but were told they weren't able to use it for an actual warrant. They wouldn't have enough information to go on."

The experience mirrored that of Kerrisdale resident Colin (who requested that his full name not be published).

Just over a year ago, Colin was watching hockey on television when he heard footsteps throughout the house.

"I thought it was just my wife in the other room," he recalled.

His wife thought the same about him.

To their shock and horror, it turned out a brazen burglar had been rummaging through their belongings while they were both home. The intruder was gone by the time they realized what had happened.

Knowing his now-stolen iPhone had tracking software on it, Colin activated the program and called police.

"They told me to keep refreshing the information and keep tabs on it," he said. "The officers eventually arrived and we were just watching the guy work his way through the city on a map."

The dot stopped on a street in Surrey and stayed there for three days before the signal finally went dead. During that time, police just "monitored" the tracking information.

"Not enough information," Colin was told. "I Google-mapped the location and it could have only been one of two houses. But police didn't have the power to enter based on the signal."

Tracking software too general: Police

Josh Shevlin and a friend managed to track down his stolen laptop using anti-theft software, but police told them the information wasn't enough to obtain a warrant. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Josh Shevlin and Colin aren't the only victims of crime whose tracking software has been thwarted by legal barriers.

"We do get numerous requests where computer software has led people to believe that their lost, or stolen, laptop, iPhone, iPad, et cetera, is located within a building or area," said Vancouver police spokesperson Sgt. Randy Fincham.

But too often, the tracking software alone gives judges little grounds to issue a warrant because it can lead to an invasion of privacy.

"The software is too general and does not specify a specific address or apartment where the item is believed to be located," Fincham said. "We're restricted in our abilities to do certain things without infringing on people's rights. We do anything we can to help, but the cases aren't always as cut and dried as them seem."

Colin says break-in victims have to be realistic about the software on their devices. "The tracking software is great for people who forget their phone and need to check if it's at home or in the office. But I understand police concerns. It's important not to set your expectations too high."

He has yet to recover any of his stolen items, including family heirlooms and jewellery.

Shevlin had better luck. His friend tracked down the source of the network his laptop was logged into to a women's shelter. A police officer familiar with the shelter was able to identify the woman whose photo was snapped by the anti-theft software. It turned out she had purchased the stolen laptop for a mere $50. Without a warrant, police could only her to turn it in.

She did, and Shevlin got his computer back.

"It was a long shot. We didn't think we were going to get anything back," he said. "All my friends that have heard the story are asking what the program is called now. Money well spent."

Provided he doesn't expect the software to perform as the crime-fighting tool it's advertised to be.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Tracking software

Not entirely useless

Tracking software may not be enough to secure a warrant, but anti-theft programs can still be useful to investigators, Vancouver police say.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says the information they provide could help steer investigators in the right direction.

Also, the programs have other practical features that victims can use to thwart thieves. Phones can be remotely locked so that no one is able to use them. Some programs allow you to wipe the contents of a stolen hard drive, so thieves using the computer don't have access to personal information.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

By the numbers

While property crime continues to be the most common offence in the City of Vancouver, the number of break and enters has declined by 40 per cent since 2005.

- **Reported burglaries in Vancouver since 2005:**
  - **2005:** 8,372
  - **2006:** 8,655
  - **2007:** 7,660
  - **2008:** 6,816
  - **2009:** 5,507
  - **2010:** 4,949
  - **2011:** 5,032

Source: Police annual reports

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OKANAGAN
KAMLOOPS
- Aberdeen Mall
- Lansdowne Village

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- Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
- Pine Centre

VERNON
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Workers vote in favour of strike to protect benefits

Health-care workers representing 11 unions in British Columbia have voted 96 per cent in favour of a strike.

They include a diverse group of employees from nurses, ambulance paramedics and pharmacy technicians to cleaners at hospitals.

Most of the workers are members of the Hospital Employees Union, but some are also represented by the B.C. Government and Service Employees Union, the B.C. Nurses' Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 873.

Negotiations are being conducted by the Facilities Bargaining Association, and spokeswoman Bonnie Pearson says the vote sends a strong message by 46,000 people who didn't get a raise in their last two-year contract.

Pearson says the Health Employers Association and the government are aiming to claw back benefits to pay for a modest wage hike, but the association won't sign any such deal.

Negotiations began in February, and the current contract expired on March 31.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In numbers

96%

Health-care workers voted 96 per cent in favour of a strike.

Changing of the guard

B.C. Lt.-Gov. Judith Guichon smiles while standing on the steps of the B.C. Legislature after she was sworn in as the 29th lieutenant-governor of the province during a ceremony in Victoria on Friday. Guichon, a rancher, replaces outgoing lieutenant-governor Steven Point, who was appointed in 2007. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public transit

Commuters can expect delays on SkyTrain

TransLink is encouraging riders travelling on the Expo Line and Millennium lines after 8 p.m. to plan for extra travel time starting Monday.

The transit authority is replacing around 34 kilometres of power rail on the Expo Line, which they expect will take as many as 15 months to complete.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Emergency response

Man shoots himself after armed standoff

Whistler RCMP are investigating after an armed standoff Saturday ended when a 41-year-old Abbotsford man shot and injured himself.

Sgt. Rob Knapton said the incident began at 3 p.m. when RCMP received a call that a suicidal male from the Lower Mainland was heading to Whistler.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Voicing concern

Info sessions underway for twin pipeline

A couple-dozen members of the public showed up at an information session this weekend on the proposed expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline through B.C.

The company wants to twin an existing pipeline that runs from the Edmonton area to a refinery and tanker port in Metro Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bountiful school sends students home

Accused of indoctrination. Students now being home-schooled after classes in polygamous community shut down

A school in Bountiful, B.C., with links to jailed polygamist leader Warren Jeffs has abruptly closed its doors, with most of its students now relying on home-schooling in a community that has long been accused of using classrooms to indoctrinate children rather than educate them.

Bountiful Elementary-Secondary School shut down without explanation in September, the province's Education Ministry confirms, and nearly all of its former students are being home-schooled.

The school, which received provincial funding for some grade levels, had an enrolment of 265 students last year.

Bountiful is a small commune of about 1,000 people in southwestern B.C., not far from the U.S. border. Residents follow a fundamentalist form of Mormonism, which, unlike the mainstream Mormon church, condones polygamy as a tenet of the faith.

Bountiful Elementary-Secondary School was one of two schools in the community, which itself is split into two divided factions.

The school was controlled by the faction that remains connected to the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or FLDS, and its jailed leader Warren Jeffs.

The FLDS side of the community is considered more extreme and isolated than the faction led by Winston Blackmore, who split with the church a decade ago.

Blackmore's school, Mormon Hills School, remains open with an enrolment this year of 178 students, according to the Education Ministry. Unlike Bountiful Elementary-Secondary School, Mormon Hills receives the highest level of government funding available to an independent school and is certified to grant high school diplomas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trial

Education in the community came under scrutiny during a high-profile trial in late 2010 and early 2011 that examined Canada's polygamy law.

- Statistics presented in court indicated few students finished Grade 12 and even fewer received high school diplomas.
- The trial also heard testimony from former Bountiful residents, who recalled being taught religion for several hours each day at the FLDS-run school, where boys were told to treat girls as "dangerous snakes."

Ottawa student escapes bomb blasts

Photos. Carleton University student, 18, documents harrowing experiences in Syria

In the span of 10 days, Carleton University student Yaman Marwah went from sipping a coffee from a Second Cup in downtown Ottawa to escaping a barrage of deadly bomb blasts in Binnish, Syria.

The 18-year-old law and economics student met with Metro on Oct. 23, the day before his trip to his home country with his friend, Faris Al Shawaf, and said he wanted to document his humanitarian aid efforts with his camera on the front lines and show the footage to the outside world.

"There's a lot of people who don't believe what's happening," said Marwah at the time, alluding to conflicting reports from Syrian media and other news sources.

Since arriving in Syria on Oct. 26, Marwah has been sharing photos on Facebook.

The most arresting photo is the one he took after what happened to him on Saturday morning. In a Skype interview with Metro from Antakia, Turkey, Marwah explained how it will be a day he will never forget.

He said he was sitting in an Internet café looking at his photographs on a computer when he heard the roar of a plane nearby.

"When we went to the door toward the noise of the bombs, we were automatically ... thrown away," said Marwah.

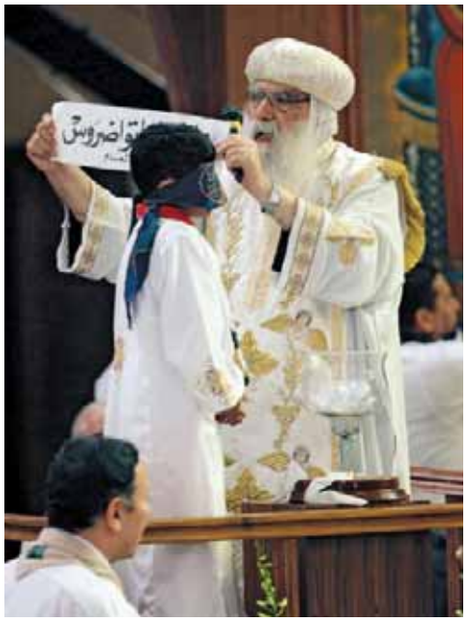
He ended up with a minor leg injury from a nearby blast.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Online

Go to metronews.ca to see Marwah's photos.

Yaman Marwah holds his camera as he speaks with a member of the Free Syrian Army on Oct. 26 in Syria. CONTRIBUTED/FARIS AL SHAWAF



New Coptic pope in Egypt

Acting Coptic Pope Pachomios displays the name of 60-year-old Bishop Tawadros, soon to be Pope Tawadros II, during the papal election ceremony at the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo on Sunday.

NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Private member's bill. Conservative MP takes aim at CBC access requests

An Edmonton MP is aiming to open up the CBC to more access-to-information requests in a new private member's bill.

Brent Rathgeber couldn't disclose all of the details of his private member's bill Sunday because it won't go to the House of Commons until Monday afternoon.

He said generally he is trying to correct a problem with how the CBC has used an exemption for journalistic and creative activities in dealing with access-to-information requests.

"The act as currently written allows the CBC to take sort of a blanket exemption approach that if any (access) requests deal with their journalistic programming or creative activities, they just refuse to disclose."

Rathgeber said there should be some sort of test to see if it would really hurt the broadcaster to release the information.

He said courts and the information commissioner have recognized the problem and he just wants to fix it.

"This is a problem here. This is not some vendetta or spite I have against the CBC, this is not what this is about at all."

NDP MP Charlie Angus said there are much bigger issues with access to information than the CBC.

"If he wanted to do something useful, there is a lot better ways to do it. This is just feeding the base."

CBC spokesperson Angus McKinnon said the broadcaster would wait to see the bill before commenting on it.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

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Aftermath. Sandy victims pray for relief, electricity

Storm victims went to church Sunday to pray for relief and give thanks for their deliverance as cold weather settling in across the New York metropolitan area compounded the misery for people already struggling with severe gasoline shortages and power outages.

Hundreds of parishioners in parkas, scarves and boots packed the pews and stood in the aisles for Mass at a chilly Church of St. Rose in flood-ravaged Belmar, N.J. Firefighters and police officers sat in the front rows and drew applause.

With about 700,000 homes and businesses in New York City, its northern suburbs and Long Island still without electricity six days after the storm, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned that many homes are becoming uninhabitable and that tens of thousands of people are going to need other places to stay.

More than 900,000 homes and businesses in New Jersey were still without electricity.

Damage has been estimated at $50 billion US, making Sandy the second-most expensive storm in U.S. history, behind Hurricane Katrina in 2005. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Having faith

"There's more happiness in life than there is the opposite. And it will be back."

Roman Catholic Bishop David O'Connell

Felice Vazquez, 40, of Hoboken, N.J., greets a neighbour Sunday as she mans a table providing hot drinks and snacks on Washington Street, while the buildings around them remain without power due to damage caused by Superstorm Sandy.

JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pittsburgh zoo

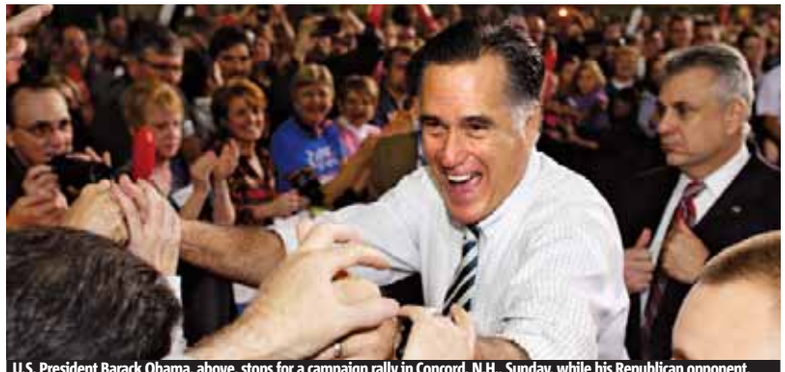
Young boy mauled by wild dogs at zoo

A young boy visiting the Pittsburgh zoo with his mother and friends was killed Sunday when he fell about 14 feet off a deck into an exhibit that's home to a pack of African painted dogs, who pounced on the boy and mauled him, zoo officials said. It's not clear whether he died from the fall or the attack, said Tracy Gray of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

When the boy fell, other visitors immediately told staff members, who responded along with Pittsburgh police. Zookeepers called off the dogs and seven of them immediately went to a back building. Three more eventually were drawn away from the boy, but the last dog wouldn't come into the building and police had to shoot him, officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama and Romney blitz swing states

Final push. Obama leading by a slight margin in key states after more than 27 million Americans voted in advance of Tuesday's election



U.S. President Barack Obama, above, stops for a campaign rally in Concord, N.H., Sunday, while his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, greets supporters as he campaigns in Des Moines, Iowa.

ABOVE: CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES, BELOW: CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney engaged in a frenzied cross-country blitz of the remaining toss-up states Sunday, with both sides predicting victory in a race that remains too close to call just two days before Election Day.

National opinion polls showed a race for the popular vote in Tuesday's election to be so close that only a statistically insignificant point or two separated the two rivals.

But the majority of polls in the battleground states — especially in the Midwestern states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Ohio — showed Obama with a slight advantage, giving him an easier path to the 270 electoral votes needed for victory. No Republican has won the White House without carrying Ohio.

Making his closing case to voters Sunday in Des Moines, Iowa, Romney pledged, if elected, to work with Democrats to restore the American dream and bring the economy roaring back to life.

"We're Americans. We can do anything," Romney said. "The only thing that stands between us and some of the best years we can imagine is a lack of leadership — and that's why we have elections."

Obama, too, said he is willing to work across party lines to break Washington's gridlock, but assured some 14,000 supporters who gathered in Concord, N.H., that he would not compromise key Democratic priorities such as health care and college financial aid.

"I know I look a little bit older, but I've got a lot of fight left in me," Obama said. "We have come too far to turn back now. We have come too far to let our hearts grow faint. It's time to keep pushing forward."

The final national NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll, conducted from Thursday to Saturday, showed Obama getting the support of 48 per cent of likely voters, while Romney received 47 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battleground states

Under the U.S. system, the winner is not determined by the nationwide popular vote, but by state-by-state contests, making "battleground" states extremely important in such a tight race.

- **Deja vu?** That raises the possibility of a replay of the 2000 election when Republican George W. Bush won the presidency with an electoral vote majority, while Democrat Al Gore had a narrow lead in the nationwide popular vote.
- **Registered voters.** Obama's campaign said it had registered 1.8 million voters in key battleground states, nearly double the number of voters they registered in 2008.

NDP. Mulcair weighs in on U.S. election during weekend convention

Canada's Official Opposition is weighing in on the U.S. presidential election.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair says he wants to work with someone who shares his party's values, particularly in terms of sustainable development — and on that issue President Barack Obama is more promising.

Mulcair says that regardless of who wins he will work with the president to promote the interests of Canadians.

The NDP leader made the comments to reporters Sunday in Montreal, where Quebec party delegates were gathered for a weekend convention.

Others at the meeting, including the party president, say they are hoping for an Obama victory.

In a speech at the Montreal meeting, Mulcair urged NDP members to raise money and strengthen the party's ground game so that it can take down the Harper government in 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

From Trump to Sandy, never a dull moment in 2012 campaign

The 2012 presidential campaign was indisputably the most expensive in American history. Some also maintain it was the nastiest. It was also one of the weirdest.

The nail-biting drama that was the race for the White House featured some unexpected supporting characters. These were some of them:

Superstorm Sandy as cupid: Chris Christie, the Republican governor of New Jersey, was among Obama's harshest critics for months, serving as one of Romney's top attack dogs. That was all before Sandy decimated his beloved Jersey shore.

Christie has had nothing but effusive praise for Obama since the ferocious megastorm lurched through the mid-Atlantic region, saying the president's handling of the federal response has been "outstanding."

Clint Eastwood as angry old uncle at Thanksgiving dinner: The iconic Hollywood actor took to the stage at the Republican convention in August. Backstage, Romney reportedly laughed throughout Eastwood's rambling, disjointed rant to an empty chair that was supposed to be Obama, even as the actor threw the prime-time convention off-schedule and became the subject of gleeful social-media ridicule.

Joe Biden as avenger: Seemingly mindful of the drubbing his boss was taking in the aftermath of the first debate, Biden showed up for his own showdown against Paul Ryan, Romney's running mate, with guns blazing. He sneered, he snickered, he sighed.

Donald Trump as constant source of embarrassment: Biden's over-the-top debate performance had nothing, however, on Trump's bids for media attention throughout the campaign. He proposed a challenge to Obama to release his academic records and passport applications in exchange for Trump donating $5 million to the charity of the president's choice. For his troubles, Trump was utterly ignored by the White House and publicly chastised for making a fool out of himself. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Syrian opposition divided over future

Conference. Main opposition group SNC balks at U.S.-backed plan for leadership that would largely sideline it

Sharp disagreements arose Sunday on the first day of a Syrian opposition conference meant to forge a more cohesive leadership that the international community says is necessary before it will boost its support for those trying to overthrow President Bashar Assad.

The main opposition group in exile, the Syrian National Council, balked at a U.S.-backed plan that would largely sideline it to make room in a new leadership council for fighters and activists inside Syria. However, with international pressure mounting, the SNC also suggested it is willing to negotiate a compromise that would give the SNC more influence in a new leadership team.

The international community has long urged the SNC, widely seen as dysfunctional and out of touch, to broaden its base and include a greater spectrum of Syrian society, especially those fighting inside the country. Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Clinton suggested the SNC's leadership days are over.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grim future?

"The solution will either be a political one that all sides agree on, or the future of Syria is very bad." Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN-Arab League envoy to Syria

The logo of the meeting of the General Assembly of the Syrian National Council is seen on a placard at the meeting in Doha, Qatar, Sunday.

OSAMA FAISAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly attacks. Germans hold vigils for victims of far-right terror group

Activists staged vigils in dozens of German cities Sunday to commemorate the victims of a far-right terror group, one year after its existence came to light.

The revelation that a small band of neo-Nazis had likely been responsible for a seven-year murder spree sent shock waves through Germany's security establishment last year.

The group, which called itself National Socialist Underground, is suspected of killing at least nine men and a policewoman between 2000 and 2007. The male victims all belonged to ethnic minorities and for years German authorities attributed the murders to immigrant gangs.

The investigation took a dramatic turn when two fugitive neo-Nazis, Uwe Mundlos and Uwe Boenhardt, were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide on Nov. 4, 2011. The third alleged core member of the group, Beate Zschaepe, is in custody pending trial.

Zschaepe's lawyer Wolfgang Heer told The Associated Press on Sunday that prosecutors are likely to submit a formal indictment against his client "within weeks." A trial is expected next year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Razed in eight seconds flat

A crowd watches as Denmark's second-tallest building, a 108-metre-tall gas container in Copenhagen, is demolished Sunday. The container hasn't been in use since 2007. The demolition was carried out by British specialist John M. Faulkner with the Precision Demolition Company, and it took only eight seconds to fall.

JACOB EHRBAHN, POLFOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harper arrives in India to kick off six-day trip

Trade and investment focus. Currently trade sits at a modest $5.2 billion annually, and both countries hope to triple that by 2015

Hours before Stephen Harper's plane set down in India, he was already signalling his embrace of one of the world's most formidable economies — with a bite of a samosa.

On the way to Agra, where he eventually arrived on Sunday evening, Harper tucked into a platter of the savoury Indian pastry with three of his Indo-Canadian MPs.

"I'm a spicy-food eater," Harper conceded to reporters who had been invited to his private cabin on the government plane.

Prime Minister Harper and wife Laureen arrive in Agra, India, Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I like everything. I love Indian food. I don't eat it that often, but I love Indian food."

Harper's unusually long six-day trip to India will be heavily focused on encouraging trade and investment, but will also touch on the personal ties between the two countries. Several reporters from Indo-Canadian media outlets have come along for Harper's trip. He is set to visit Chandigarh in the Punjab region, from where so many Canadians hail.

The first stop on Monday will be the Taj Mahal, the elaborate marble tomb built in the 17th century.

Later, Harper is to participate in a business forum in the capital, New Delhi.

Stewart Beck, Canada's high commissioner to India, said there are four main areas for trade growth: Food security, educational services, oil and gas, and infrastructure support.

But major agreements are not likely to be announced during Harper's trip.

A foreign investment and a trade deal are both still in negotiations, and the two nations have yet to agree on the strings attached to Canada selling India uranium under a two-year-old nuclear deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

47 couples tie knot in mass marriage

An Indian Muslim bride looks aside during a mass marriage for 47 couples in Ahmadabad, India, on Sunday. Mass marriages are organized by social organizations primarily to help families who cannot afford the high ceremony costs, as well as the elaborate dowry that is often customary. AJIT SOLANKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coronavirus

Another infected in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has reported another person infected with the new coronavirus that emerged this year. This infected person is in Riyad. It's the third such case. The news comes as the Hajj ends and millions head home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales

Soldier accused in deaths due in court

A U.S. soldier will appear in military court Monday, where prosecutors will for the first time lay out their case that he slaughtered 16 people, including children, during a predawn raid on two villages in Afghanistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Election in 2014

Intra-party intrigue in South Africa

South Africa's deputy president is being urged to challenge President Jacob Zuma for the leadership of the ruling party, the ANC. Kgalema Motlanthe is dubbed Zuma's "silent opponent." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Going home. Palestinian president suggests land in Israel is a lost cause

The Palestinian president has set off a strident debate by shattering a once-inviolable taboo, publicly suggesting his people would have to relinquish claims to ancestral homes in Israel.

Mahmoud Abbas's comments on the refugee issue, made in an interview on Israeli TV over the weekend, triggered hot responses from Palestinians and Israelis alike.

In Israel, it suddenly put the long-sidelined issue of peace talks back in the Israeli public's consciousness ahead of parliamentary elections.

Palestinians have maintained for six decades that Arabs forced from their homes during Israel's creation, as well as their descendants, have the right to reclaim their former property.

Israel says a mass return of what could be five million people would spell its end as the Jewish state. Also, Israel rejects the concept of a "right of return."

In the interview, Abbas was asked about his birthplace of Safed — now a town in northern Israel. He told the interviewer that while he would like to visit, he doesn't claim the right to live there.

Mahmoud Abbas
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I am a refugee, but I am living in Ramallah (in the West Bank). I believe that the West Bank and Gaza is Palestine. And the other parts is Israel," Abbas said in English. "I want to see Safed. It is my right to see it, but not to live there."

The comments were widely seen as an acknowledgment that return of all the refugees would be impossible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wasn't impressed, noting that Abbas subsequently backtracked. "No one can forfeit the right of return," Abbas told Egypt's Al-Hayyat TV on Saturday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Foul-weather friends

Chinese paramilitary policemen march past a line of vehicles trapped by heavy snow on an expressway in Yanqing county, near Beijing, on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Border security. Canada's unreliable info could harm deal with the U.S.

Canadian officials worry that the poor quality of information routinely collected from airline passengers could hamper a key feature of the perimeter security deal with the United States.

An internal Canada Border Services Agency briefing note warns the lack of reliable data might be an obstacle to compiling a comprehensive record of almost everyone who enters and leaves the continent.

The deal is intended to help smooth the passage of travellers and cargo across the Canada-U.S. border while beefing up continental security.

Currently, commercial airlines flying into Canada must provide the Canada Border Services Agency with what's known as Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data.

However, there have long been concerns about the accuracy and reliability of such information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study

"37 per cent of data transmitted ... was not accurate."

A 2007 federal auditor general report on the advance passenger information of four flights the previous year

New committee

Tories solicit advice for vice-regal spots

The Conservative government is creating a new advisory committee to help choose candidates for vice-regal appointments such as the governor general.

The committee will be headed by Kevin McLeod, Canada's secretary to the Queen.

It will also have two permanent federal members along with two temporary regional members.

Prime Minister Harper said in a release that the purpose is to ensure a "non-partisan consultation process."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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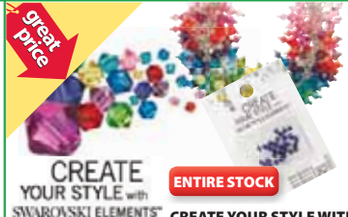

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The USS Enterprise crew on deck during the carrier's homecoming in Norfolk, Va., in 2011. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

USS Enterprise: The voyage home

All good things ... Timeworn aircraft carrier ends its half-century of service

The world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier ended its remarkable career at sea on Sunday when it pulled into its home port for the final time after participating in every major conflict since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

The USS Enterprise began shutting down its eight nuclear reactors almost as soon as it arrived at its pier at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, where thousands welcomed the ship home from its 25th and final deployment after nearly eight months at sea. The ship will never move on its own power again and will eventually be scrapped in Washington state, making its final voyage a sentimental one for those who have sailed aboard "The Big E."

It is the second-oldest ship in the navy after the USS Constitution, and its age has frequently shown.

"She's just old, so you got to work around her," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Danielle Almarez. "We have to make our own parts sometimes because it just doesn't exist."

The navy will deactivate the Enterprise on Dec. 1, but it will take years for it to be decommissioned as its reactors are taken out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peak performance

The Enterprise's final deployment was anything but a sentimental victory lap:

- The ships' fighter planes flew more than 2,200 combat sorties and dropped 56 bombs in Afghanistan
- In a show of force to Iran, the ship also passed through the strategic Strait of Hormuz 10 times, a figure that an official said is more than double the typical amount

Russian protesters stoke division on Unity Day

Thousands of nationalists marched through Moscow on Sunday chanting slogans such as "Russia for the Russians" to protest President Vladimir Putin's government, which they accuse of lavishing privileges on migrants and minorities while ignoring ethnic Russians.

The anti-Kremlin tone of the nationalists, who once backed Putin, comes as the movement's leaders try to broaden their base in the wake of last winter's historic opposition protests against the Russian leader. Some nationalists are even denouncing violence and racism, moves many mainstream opposition activists view with suspicion.

Sunday's march took place on Unity Day, a national holiday established in 2005 to replace commemorations of the Bolshevik Revolution. It has become associated with the nationalist "Russian March," which has taken an anti-Kremlin tone. More than 40 Russian Marches were held throughout the country during the day.

Putin is "scared of us. He feels his time is coming to an end, because the future belongs to us," Alexander Belov, leader of the nationalist group Russkie, told marchers in Moscow.

Ultra-nationalist demonstrators and activists march on Sunday, National Unity Day, on the outskirts of Moscow. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Levada Center, an independent Russian survey agency, found nearly half of Russians resent government subsidies to the restive, mostly Muslim Caucasus republics and dislike migrants from both the Caucasus and the former Soviet Central Asian states.

Such sentiments often overlap with the opposition movement that rose up last December after parliamentary elections tainted by fraud claims. Prominent opposition figure Alexei Navalny has called on the Kremlin to "stop feeding the Caucasus," and was one of the march's organizers until this year.

Nationalist leaders believe many ordinary Russians share their concerns but that they are put off by their movement's more radical members. As a result, some nationalist leaders have denounced racism and violence and some are even trying to set up a more mainstream political party.

"You hear it all the time: 'I've really had it with the darkies, but I'm still not a nationalist,'" nationalist leader Konstantin Krylov told The Associated Press last week. "And then people go up to me after I speak at protests and say, 'Listen, you're a nationalist, but you're telling it like it is.'"

Although they make up a small part of the anti-Putin protest movement, nationalists are among its most visible members, thanks in part to their experience organizing Russian Marches. Nationalists have spoken at rallies alongside major opposition figures and ran for the opposition movement's elected governing council last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proper burial. Funeral fund rejects two-thirds of poor veteran pleas

A federal burial fund meant to give impoverished veterans a final salute has rejected over two-thirds of the applications it's received since 2006.

And of the requests that are accepted, Ottawa contributes about $3,600, a figure substantially lower than what some social-services departments pay towards the burial of the homeless and those on welfare.

According to figures put before Parliament, of the 29,853 requests made to the veterans funeral and burial program, 20,147 pleas for funding (67.4 per cent) were rejected.

They either did not meet eligibility criteria or failed a means test, which says a qualifying veteran's annual income must have been less than $12,010 per year.

The government has recently invested millions in improved veterans benefits, but critics say ignoring the burial issue is tantamount to a final insult. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hypocrisy?

Liberal veterans critic Sean Casey accuses the Harper government of hypocrisy, saying, "There's an awful lot of photo-ops and spin and propaganda about how this government purportedly loves veterans."

- The Harper government has poured millions into war monuments and has spent $28 million to celebrate the War of 1812.
- Overhauling eligibility and increasing the funeral stipend could cost $5 million to $7 million annually.

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Score wounded

Child killed by car bomb in Turkey

Turkey's leader says Kurdish rebels have detonated a car bomb in southeast Turkey, killing an 11-year-old child and wounding 18 other people.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the explosion occurred Sunday as an armoured police vehicle was travelling on a road in the town of Semdinli, near the border with Iraq. The bomb went off close to a wedding celebration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Down and out

Former Serbian president cedes party leadership

Serbia's former pro-western president and the leader of the country's opposition, Boris Tadic, has stepped down from the helm of his Democratic party.

During his eight-year presidency, Tadic has helped Serbia reconcile with its former wartime foes Croatia and Bosnia and led it closer to the European Union. But he has failed to stem the country's rampant corruption and economic decline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People wait to use a pay phone on Bright Beach Avenue on Oct. 31 in the Brooklyn borough of New York, after Superstorm Sandy knocked out cellphone reception. Despite their value during emergencies, pay phones may be cut even further in Ontario and Quebec if the CRTC doesn't approve price increases. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Endangered pay phones prove their worth in disasters

Telecom. While Sandy shows how valuable archaic technology can be, least-profitable booths in Ontario and Quebec are threatened

The events of Superstorm Sandy are raising questions about the importance of pay phones in emergencies, even as two of Canada's largest telecom companies say they will tear out some public telephones unless they are allowed to sharply raise prices.

New Yorkers were forced to turn to their neighbourhood's coin-operated phones last week as flood waters knocked out power and cellphone reception in areas ravaged by Sandy, the massive storm that swept across the Eastern Seaboard.

But a push from Bell Canada and Bell Aliant Inc. could make it harder to find those pay phones in Canada during emergencies.

Earlier this year, both companies made applications to the CRTC for rate hikes that could double the price of a pay-phone call.

Under the submission, they are asked for the ability to boost the price of a local call to as much as $1 each, compared to the current price of 50 cents.

Then in September the two telecom companies added extra pressure to their request by saying that without a rate increase, they would be forced to get rid of their least-profitable pay phones.

That could mean that up to 25 per cent of their pay phones in Ontario and Quebec would disappear if the CRTC doesn't allow them to raise prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mini vs. full-size: iPad buyers weigh the 1.8-inch difference

Should you go 7.9 or 9.7? It's one of two big questions facing indecisive consumers who are thinking about buying a new iPad but aren't sure which one to choose.

The new iPad mini, which went on sale in Canada on Friday, has a 7.9-inch screen, versus the 9.7-inch display on the newest full-size iPad (that's about 20 and 24.6 centimetres for metric-system sticklers).

The other magic number to consider is 170 — as in the price difference between an iPad mini and a similarly equipped version of the latest large-sized iPad.

On the low end, a WiFi-only 16-gigabyte iPad mini is $329, versus $499 for the big iPad. The most expensive 64-gigabyte iPad mini — out later this month — is WiFi and mobile-network-ready. It'll go for $659, while the latest upgrade of the iPad with the same specs goes for $829.

Employees hold a new full-size Apple iPad, fourth generation, next to the new Apple iPad mini at an Apple store in Chicago. The devices went on sale in stores Friday. M. SPENCER GREEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So is it worth an extra $170 for the larger iPad? Or put another way, will price-conscious buyers regret not spending the extra $170 if they go with the cheaper iPad mini?

The iPad mini's smaller screen brings down its cost and Apple also saved a few bucks by sacrificing a bit of screen quality. Text on the iPad mini has some raggedness around the edges, but it may not be apparent to many users.

The iPad mini weighs in at about .68 pounds to the 1.44 pounds of the newest WiFi-only iPad. The weight difference makes it far more comfortable to hold one-handed for long stretches of time.

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LIFE, LIBERTY & THREAT OF A BOMB

URBAN COMPASS
Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

Nearly half-a-million people ride the SkyTrain every day.

So a lot of lives were disrupted Friday when Squirrel Brain decided to put a bomb on the track leading to the Gateway Station in Surrey. The system was shut down for about four hours, and there were various aftershocks as, over the next 24 hours, nervous employees spotted a number of suspicious objects that turned out to be false alarms.

As bad as it was, at least the bomb squad was able to cart it away — gingerly — and dismantle it in a safe place, wherever that was.

It was the first real bomb threat to the SkyTrain since it was built just before Expo 86, which is exceptional when you think about it. There is nothing Squirrel Brain likes better than holding the entire city hostage, and threatening its primary transit artery is an obvious opportunity. It's a wonder it hasn't happened before.

SkyTrain targeted

"There is nothing Squirrel Brain likes better than holding the entire city hostage, and threatening its primary transit artery is an obvious opportunity."

The bomb was described as a "serious device" by transit-police spokeswoman Anne Drennan, and "unsophisticated" but "extremely dangerous." It probably didn't need to work; it just needed to look as if it would work, and that was enough to disrupt the system and have permanent consequences.

So more transit police will have to be hired, more CCTV cameras will have to be installed and more people will feel vulnerable to attack, which could come from anywhere at any time. The authorities will work hard to restore that feeling of safety that we all need to go about our day, but no matter what they do, it will never come back all the way.

It was absurdly easy for Squirrel Brain to take down our sense of security. Who knows why. Does it matter? Whatever the grievance, real or imagined, nothing justifies this kind of assault on our well-being.

SkyTrain is a symbol of our capacity to cope. It's pretty remarkable that we can zip half-a-million people anywhere around the Lower Mainland in less than an hour. It's a testament to how well it works that development is being concentrated along the three lines, soon to be four with the addition of the Evergreen Line. In the future, even more people will depend on the SkyTrain.

Which is a red flag for Squirrel Brain.

Currently, each station has 23 closed-circuit cameras. Yet there were no cameras at the location where the device was found, which probably means Squirrel Brain knows where the cameras are. In the future, that means more secret surveillance, which brings up issues of privacy and civil liberties. But what else can we do? We increasingly live in a police state because there's really no other choice.

Squirrel Brain, wherever you are, I hope you're happy.

Disturbance in the Force

Starfighter feeling Disney after all

George Lucas's filmmaking outpost, Skywalker Ranch, is so far removed from the Hollywood moviemaking machine he once despised that it may as well be on the forest moon of Endor.

Which is why the announcement that Lucas is selling the Star Wars franchise and the entire Lucasfilm business to the Walt Disney Co. for more than $4 billion US is like a laser blast from outer space for Dale Pollock.

Pollock, the author of the 1999 biography Skywalking, said George Lucas disdained the Disney culture in interviews he gave in the 1980s, even though he admired the company's founder. "He felt the corporate 'Disneyization' had destroyed the spirit of Walt," Pollock said.

Lucas said through a spokeswoman on Saturday that he never said such a thing. But his anti-corporate streak is renowned. In the Lucasfilm-sanctioned documentary Empire of Dreams, Lucas says on camera that he is "not happy that corporations have taken over the film industry." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This ride will go down in history

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Step on the gas!

Pre-1905 cars put on some clicks

Participant Paul Noon drives his 1902 Westfield car in central London during the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run on Sunday.

More than 500 pre-1905 vehicles made their way on the historic 100-kilometre run from Hyde Park in London to coastal Brighton in southern England, in the world's longest-running motoring celebration spanning 116 years.

The run is not a race but an endurance event and the drivers are not competitors but participants, hence why there is no "first to Brighton" award.

All participants who complete the course receive a finisher's medal and certificate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The wheel deal

30 km/h

All vehicles must be driven at an average speed of no more than 30 km/h and, in case of breakdowns, outside assistance is only permitted at designated locations.

A 1904 Aster car is backdropped by a double-decker bus during the run.

Stitching the very fabric of community

News Worth Sharing

Media will always have to report on the tough stuff. But we know that Canada is full of compassionate individuals, inspiring projects and stories worth celebrating. Here's just one.

Some say that a common thread ties us all together. Members of the Chilliwack Common Threads Knitting Circle will swear by it.

Every week since January (yup, even throughout the summer), the dedicated group has been knitting scarves — each one different and unique — for those in need, and they are to be given out at an annual Christmas dinner.

Knitter Jeanine D'Addario says "(Being a part of the knitting circle) has renewed my love for knitting and crocheting and has connected me to people in the community, which has led to even more volunteering."

So far, the circle has made and collected about 60 scarves but is aiming for 150.

Knitters of all levels and talents are invited to join the group every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Starbucks on Promontory Road, or donate their handmade scarves.

So, Chilliwack, get your needles out and warm some hearts this holiday season!

CRAIG AND MARC KIELBURGER

Craig and Marc Kielburger are founders of international charity and educational partner Free the Children. Its youth-empowerment event, We Day, is in eight cities across Canada this year, inspiring more than 100,000 attendees. Email us for more information and to goodnews@metowe.com and we'll share them right here.

metro
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Dueck GM Goodwrench SERVICE SPECIALS

Sally Field stars in Steven Spielberg's new film Lincoln as Mary Todd, the wife of the assassinated president. HANDOUT

What if Lincoln could send a text message?

Lincoln. Sally Field talks about getting to know co-star Daniel Day-Lewis through modern-day means

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Sally Field didn't have any rehearsal time for Lincoln, in which she plays Mary Todd Lincoln opposite fellow Oscar-winner Daniel Day-Lewis' Honest Abe. Luckily, the pair had another way to develop the rapport and sense of intimacy necessary to portray the long-married couple: text messaging. In character.

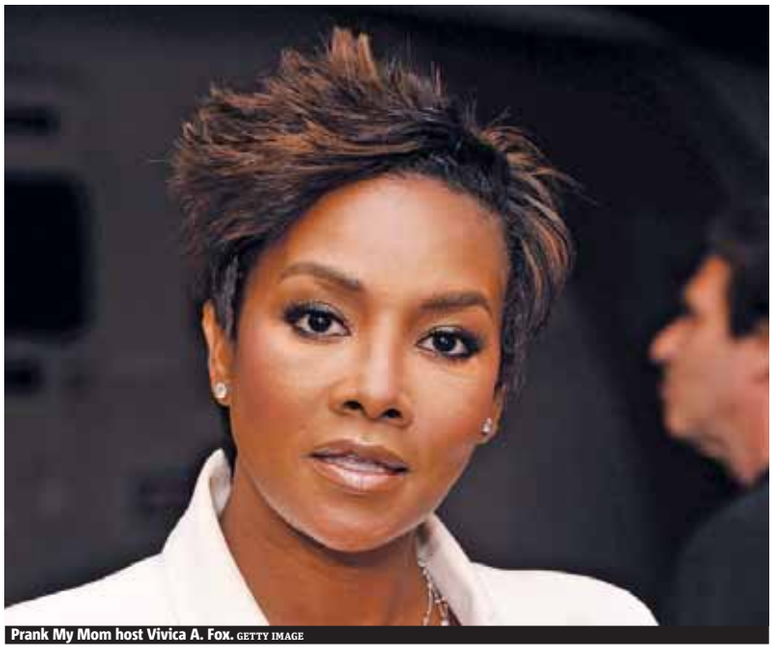
You and Daniel Day-Lewis would text each other, in character, before and during production?
I actually kept all the texts. I printed them up, I will keep them forever. They were breathtakingly wonderful and important to me because he kept doing it throughout the whole filming. He would write me after I'd done big scenes. It meant so much to me, and I will never reveal it. I will never reveal what they are. They are mine, they belong to me — a little like what Mary Todd felt about Mr. Lincoln. She burnt many of his letters. "He belongs to me." And that relationship belongs to me and I will never share it. But I will talk about the texts. It was so wonderful and so funny, a lot of it. And so concise. You know, we were texting, but as precisely Mr. Lincoln and precisely Mary Todd as we could manage. In the middle of last summer, he took to sending me limericks, and I would answer him by being critical. You know, "Is this the way you spend your time?" And criticize his lack of intelligence and his use of language (laughs).

It seems daunting to apply that manner of language to typing with your thumbs on a phone.
Yeah. It was really hard to do. It was helped by the fact that I was in the midst of research myself, so I was reading all these letters that were written of the feeling of the time. The way they used language was incredible. And also [screenwriter] Tony [Kushner]'s words were already being imprinted on my head, so I had some sense of the use of the language, and it was really a challenge much of the time to say what I wanted to say and not lose how it is that it should be said or it would be said at the time.

Have you ever done anything like that with a co-star before?
You know, I have never done a role that's this intense and emotional and connected to one human being and never have any rehearsal. We never had any rehearsal. So many of the scenes that you see between Mary and Mr. Lincoln are literally walk on set and do it. And do very few takes. But we had done so much work, he and I, and I think we both have enough miles in the saddle, and the bubble that was created for us by Steven [Spielberg] and by him to stay immersed in this world, it made it very interesting and very challenging — but in a good way — to work. The difficulty is owning the language. It's so difficult to say.

It must be nice being one of the few people in this film that doesn't have to worry about outlandish facial hair.
No, but I had to worry about other things, like gaining weight.

You look fantastic now.
I haven't eaten since (laughs).



Prank My Mom host Vivica A. Fox. GETTY IMAGE

Out Fox-ing your mother has never been so much fun

Prank My Mom. New hidden-camera show hosted by Kill Bill actress aims to give serious parents a shock with hilarious results

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

Vivica A. Fox hosts Prank My Mom, a hidden-camera series that sets up unsuspecting moms for big surprises. Children announce they are pregnant, under arrest, have to retrieve a sex tape or posted mom's profile on a fictitious dating site and wait for her reaction. It's a ruse designed to bring her a little excitement. Metro talked to the host about the show and her hectic career.

Vivica, you're hysterical! Your attitude sweetens the emotional roller coaster that is Prank My Mom.
Absolutely! It's been a good fit for me, and surprising for a lot of people. They say, "I never knew you were really funny!" What? I've done a lot of comedies — like Booty Call and Curb Your Enthusiasm — but they forgot! And I've been punked by Tichina Arnold. I love Prank My Mom because moms are so serious, especially concerning their kids. These pranks can be pretty outrageous. The moms go wild. When it's revealed as a prank they are so relieved their kid doesn't have a sex tape and isn't a sex surrogate or going to jail, it's just "Whoo-hoo!" And then we talk it off with a dozen roses! One mom was hitting security officers with her purse and when it was over she said to her daughter, "I'd do anything for you," even though she'd broken the law and assaulted police. We haven't had any moms who've become upset with us.

What about hitting home, pranking your mom or being pranked?
As of right now, no, I don't know about my mom. I'll think about that one. We could get her at church. She's very proud and defensive of her church! The show Punk'd had been trying to get me for a very long time. I was at a photo shoot and my friend Tichina came to visit and pretended she was pregnant. I should have noticed when she came in full makeup, but I was busy with my shoot. Did she ever get me! Her water broke and the paramedics from hell showed up. I turned into a mama bear and stopped them from taking an uncompromising picture of her and told them to put up the cameras or I'd inflict bodily harm! When it was over I was sweating for a half hour to calm down. What! People were saying I'm always so red carpet ready but they learned you don't mess with me. That's the other side of Viv!

You're doing this show and have 11 films due out next year. Yikes.
I've been very blessed that my producer Lita Richardson strategized not to limit us. I host, produce, do theatre, film and TV and that has been the key. I'm also on another sitcom called Mr. Box Office. You have to control your career and the product for your audience. I find it to be so fulfilling and I'm proud of my hands-on part in it. Oh! Plus I have my own hair line for busy sexy women (vivicafoxhair.com). Yes I am busy.

How do you relax? Or do you?
Oh no, honey. Are you kidding me? I love working and I love what I do and I'm happy and blessed but I do know how to relax. I go to the spa and take my godson Christian to the mall and play with him. And, I spend a lot of time with my family. I've learned to take the time to smell the roses, to go play. I had to learn that after I built two homes and sold them!

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The show follows the famous Borgia family's rise to power and domination of the Vatican.
GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Borgia's ruthless rise to become a television power

Middle Ages. The second season of TV's new powerhouse on a bloody Italian family is filmed near Rome with a high quality crew and cast

Who doesn't love a wealthy family's bloody saga?

The Italian economy may be struggling, but the pan-European television series Borgia, which is now filming its second season in Italy, is a thriving hit on the world market.

Spanning the late Middle Ages to the early Renaissance period, the show follows the famous Borgia family's rise to power and subsequent domination of the Vatican and southern Europe's political landscape. A winning combination of sex, violence, faith, lust and betrayal, the primarily French-German production has been sold in 85 countries worldwide.

The first season follows the brutally ambitious Catalan Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia (played by U.S. actor John Doman) and his ruthless climb to become Pope Alexander VI. The second season, currently shooting, begins in 1494 and its focus slowly moves to his charismatic son Cesare Borgia (played by Irish actor Mark Ryder), the famed warrior prince who inspired Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince.

Ryder said the biggest challenge has been taking his character from a whiny young boy in the first season to a "magnificent man of the Renaissance" in the second.

There are twenty-four different nationalities among the Borgia crew. Doman, best known for his role in the U.S. hit HBO TV series The Wire says it's a unique experience to work on such a multi-cultural production.

"We have all come from different places and we are all together working here on this project about a family and we've really kind of gelled as a family," he said.

On the set, a stocky Italian charges across the courtyard of the Caetani Castle and yells, "Action, silenzio!" prompting a tall, blond German to lift a movie camera off a metal frame and an Italian stunt woman to hoist herself onto a horse. Dozens of extras immediately snap to attention.

Nearby, in a black tent, a British director was following the action closely on a monitor while an Irish actor enjoyed a cigarette on his break, careful not to dirty his red velvet cardinal's robes.

The executive producer, American Tom Fontana, says producers searched far and wide to assemble the talent working on Borgia.

"We were always determined to have the best actors, the best designers, the most talented people here, regardless of what country they come from," he said. "Everyone who is here knows they are here because we think they are the best."

With a budget of $38.7 million, the second season of Beta Film's Borgia is being shot over eight months in both Italy and the Czech Republic. Italy alone will feature 20 separate locations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We were always determined to have the best actors, the best designers, the most talented people here, regardless of what country they come from."

Tom Fontana
Executive producer on Borgia talking about how they hired the staff

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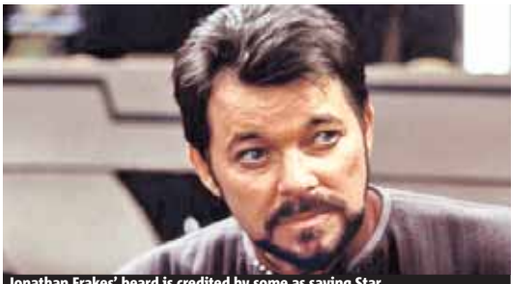
Hollywood's leading men have a hairy conundrum facing them

Movember. Got beard? It may be the difference between a hit movie and the discount bin

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca



Jonathan Frakes' beard is credited by some as saving Star Trek the Next Generation.

Frakes, second from right, is clean shaven and, frankly, boring.

To beard or not to beard, that is the whisker twirler confronting scores of stars looking to kick their careers into higher gear. Cultivating facial forestry can have a transformative effect on an actor, re-energizing their chi and forcing folks to see them in a new light. A baptism of fuzz may well be just what the barber ordered.

At the very least, it'll prompt legions of fans to tweet their praises with a #beardgettingitdone or #gotbeard hashtag and that kind of social media hubbub is always a good thing for Hollywood players.

A hot meme in the geekier corners of the interweb, the theorem is predicated on Jonathan Frakes (Commander Riker) growing his out to start the second season of Star Trek the Next Generation, widely seen as the inflection point when the show went from mere impulse power to warp drive in one hairy intergalactic minute.

Years later, when Counselor Troi shaves Riker midway through Star Trek: Insurrection during the sexy bathtub scene, the sci-fi staple entered terminal decline, where it would remain cold and lifeless until the J.J. Abrams 2009 reboot of the franchise.

Zach Galifianakis' career arc perfectly illustrates the beard as career elixir. While the outlandish comic had some success as a stand-up, his first major break was landing his own talk show on VH1 10 years ago.

But Late Night World with Zach bombed and was cancelled after just a nine-week run. Could a contributing factor have been that Galifianakis was clean-shaven on the show? Post cancellation, Galifianakis disappeared from view.

"When you go from having your own talk show to doing stand-up in a bowling alley, you can react by getting mad or depressed, or by just going away, like people expect you to. I reacted by growing my beard," Galifianakis once told the New York Times.

Post shave-cation, full bearded Galifianakis suddenly had stage presence.

He was not only way more recognizable, he also became an original, a humourist of repute, absolutely slaying audiences in the film The Hangover.

"Beards can be a great way for an actor to change his public face and to reinvent a career," explains Dr. Allan Peterkin, a facial hair guru whose latest book One Thousand Mustaches: A Cultural History of the Mo hones in on the above-the-lip hair strip.

The main caveat to the growing the beard trope is that the look has to suit the actor's face.

Otherwise, the follicular thicket may come off as a disguise instead of a new guise as Jim Carrey, Anthony Hopkins and Joaquin Phoenix can all attest.

In 2005, Mel Gibson sported a diabolical salt-and-pepper growth, which bore a pretty strong resemblance to the Unabomber's mug shot or a spider-hole era Saddam Hussein.

That unkempt extrusion certainly didn't do Gibson's waning career any favours.

The beard of Zach Galifianakis is the leader of the Wolf pack. HANDOUT

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Britney Spears. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lawsuit against Spears' family thrown out of court

Britney Spears has one less headache to worry about, as a judge has dismissed former manager Sam Lufti's case against the singer and her family, according to Hollyscoop.

Lufti's suit had claimed that Spears' mom defamed him in her book and her dad assaulted him and that Spears herself owed him nearly $1 million in unpaid wages because of a verbal agreement that he would manage her for a four-year period. Lufti is reportedly planning to appeal.

The Word

DiCaprio casts off another model girlfriend

Leonardo DiCaprio has called it quits with yet another fashion model girlfriend, reportedly breaking up with Erin Heatherton after about 10 months of dating, according to Us Weekly.

"They split a few weeks ago. There's no bad blood, they still care about each other a lot," a source says.

"They're both just really busy. They had crazy schedules."

DiCaprio previously had long-term relationships with models Gisele Bundchen from 2001 to 2005 and Bar Refaeli from 2006 to 2011.

Amanda Bynes

Amanda Bynes threatens to sue over latest allegations

Amanda Bynes has been accused of engaging in a lot of unstable and unlawful behaviour this year. But apparently she draws the line at an In Touch magazine report that she paraded around a New York tanning salon completely naked, telling Celebuzz in a text message it wasn't true.

"That's not true, I'll sue."

The story claimed that Bynes emerged from a private tanning room completely naked and looking for a pair of goggles.

She "didn't seem to care that everyone saw her naked," a source says, adding that Bynes looked "painfully thin."

Twitter

@ralphmacchio
Lights just went on at Camp Macchio! Water is running!

@jimmykimmel
The SkyMall catalogue has gotten so commercialized

@prattprattpratt
Haiku of the day: Jack Daniel's Whiskey. Jack. I love you, Jack. I got your back, Mr. Jack. Forever my boy.

@SteveMartinToGo
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4. Read the poem In Flanders Field together.
5. Read Winnie-the-Pooh and talk about Winnie's history. (True story: Winnie-the-Pooh was inspired by Winnipeg the Bear — a Canadian born bear adopted by a Canadian solider who became his regiment's mascot.)

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Five life lessons I have learned from my toddler

Wee ones. Two-year-olds actually have a lot of wisdom to impart

HAILEY EISEN
yummymummyclub.ca

Toddlers are incredible because, for the most part, they exist in a pure and natural state — untainted by society's expectations, standards and rules.

They do what they want, when they want, until someone forces them to stop. They speak their minds and act without inhibition. Adults can learn a lot from them! Here's what mine has taught me.

Be persistent
If you want something badly enough, it's worth going after. Whether this means cajoling, bargaining, pleading or even stomping your feet.

Even if someone is standing in the way of making your dream/goal/desire a reality, a healthy dose of conviction is sometimes all you need to break down that barrier. There's no talking my daughter out of something once she's made up her mind.

Be in the moment
If there's anyone who can teach us about mindfulness, it's a toddler. It's amazing to watch a kid play. It's as if nothing around them matters. They aren't worrying about how the week's weather forecast will interfere with their play dates or what to wear to the family dinner party. Kids live in the moment. They don't waste any time worrying about things in the future that they have no control over anyway.

Let your emotions flow
Have you ever watched a two-year-old process emotions? Mine can go from laughing hysterically, to crying, to sulking, to laughing in a matter of minutes. She expresses her emotions as she feels them, so she's never at risk of keeping them pent up. She doesn't know about holding a grudge and the longest she can stay angry with someone is five minutes.

Forget what others think
Do you ever wonder how you'd live your life if no one was watching? That's how my child lives every day. It may sound cliché, but it's totally liberating. I'm taking cues from her and quieting that inner voice that says, "What if they don't like me? What if they think I look fat?" As my daughter practices her plié sauté on a busy sidewalk wearing a tutu and a mismatched hat with chocolate smeared on her cheek, I have to ask myself: who cares? And the answer I'm going for is: not me!

There is a lot adults can learn from toddlers. ISTOCK

Love yourself
My daughter is happiest when positioned in front of the full-length mirror in our front foyer. She'll sing, dance, and have full conversations with herself. She's so happy with her own reflection that she never looks upon herself with criticism. This is what we all felt about ourselves when we were kids, before we started listening to the criticism of others. When was the last time you looked yourself in the mirror and felt nothing but love? When was the last time you celebrated your accomplishments? Take a lesson from this kid!

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Noticing some mo bros and sistas?

GILBERT NDIKUBWAYEZU
life@metronews.ca

In the next few weeks, you may see many men developing their whiskers in an exceptional way.

It's Movember — a combination of moustache and November — a time when men grow a moustache during the whole month of November.

By doing so, you participate in an awareness campaign against males' most pressing health issues, notably prostate cancer.

The worldwide campaign culminates in a multitude of fundraising parties, with proceedings going to programmes dedicated to fighting against prostate cancer and males' mental health.

Participation in Movember requires a guy to register for the campaign, with a completely shaved face starting on November 1.

The ultimate objective is to instill, throughout the month, discussions in all walks of life about the often ignored issues facing males' health.

Since its inception in 2004, Movember activities have spread around the world. Canada joined the movement in 2007 and this year such activities will be held in 21 countries.

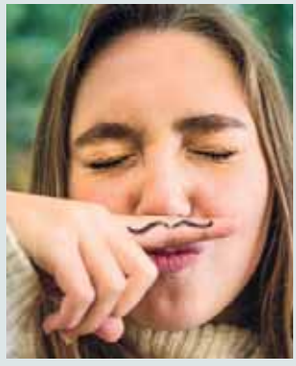
In 2011, as many as 854,000 Canadians participated, raising $125.7 million for the Movember Foundation.

Mo Sistas

So it's Movember, the month to grow moustaches and fight prostate cancer. And you are a female. Doesn't really concern you, does it?

Well, yes actually. There are ways women can also play a role, and a vital one at that, during the Movember campaign.

"Just because you can't grow a moustache doesn't mean you can't have a life-saving conversation, create awareness and contribute to a great cause," said Angela McNally of Toronto, who has been a Mo Sista since 2010 and currently sits on its Toronto committee. "Standing behind this cause shows you are passionate to see a change in men's Health."



Mo Sistas play a crucial role during the campaign by acting as team captains, recruiting others to join, sparking conversations, lending support to Mo Bros who grow moustaches and raising general awareness for the importance of men's health, said Pete Mbombaci, director for Movember Canada.

There we more than 16,000 registered Mo Sistas last year. They have formed regional committees in Toronto, Calgary and Montreal.

GILBERT NDIKUBWAYEZU/FOR METRO

Movember expands scope to include mental health issues

In the spirit of continuing to address crucial issues that affect men's health, Movember has expanded its scope of campaign to include males' mental health.

Mental health problems affect 3.4 million Canadian males each year, said Pete Mbombaci, national director of Movember Canada, as he explained the reasons why the movement decided this year to include mental health in its campaign activities. In other words, one-in-five Canadian men is affected by mental health issues. This trend raises the rate of suicide among men. Despite the lower cases of depression reported, it has emerged that four out five suicides among young Canadian people are committed by men. These alarming numbers are what prompted the Movember foundation to include mental health in its awareness campaign this year, Mbombaci said.

"This is an important step in the evolution of Movember as we're able to continue to address critical men's health issues," he said, adding that the goal is to get people to have discussions about it to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with it.

Movember intends to partner with other existing organizations in the mental health field to form an industry think tank that will possibly convene in January to address key areas where funding is needed. Once decided, mental health organizations across Canada will be able to apply for funding for projects in the given priority areas, Pete added.

Movember campaign funds will also help raise awareness of men's mental health issues. ISTOCK IMAGES

At the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), they've welcomed this Movember initiative, in as far as it will help men take recognition of mental health's severity.

"Many men don't believe they are susceptible to depression for example," said Peter Coleridge, national CEO of CMHA. He said that, just like prostate cancer, men's mental health issues are not spoken about among people, yet this is "the second largest threat to men's health after accidents."

"We encourage all Canadians to maintain and improve their mental health, and seek support and help when needed," he said.

Peter said the Movember campaign will help direct males to resources available to them at CMHA and other health organizations across the country. GILBERT NDIKUBWAYEZU/FOR METRO

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French Toast gets a healthy facelift from multi-grain bread

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Pancake houses serve delicious French toast, cooked in loads of oil and smothered with butter and maple syrup. Delicious, but it's not healthy or low in fat. My version is delicious and healthy. Using the egg substitute lowers fat, calories and cholesterol.

1. Whisk the eggs, milk, cinnamon and vanilla together in a shallow bowl until well blended.

2. Dip a piece of bread into the mixture, making sure both sides are moistened. Do not leave the bread in the mixture for too long or the bread will fall apart. Repeat with another slice of bread.

3. Spray a large non-stick skillet with vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Cook 2 pieces at a time, browning each side, a total of about 5 minutes.

4. Garnish with a sprinkling of icing sugar, a drizzle of maple syrup and sliced strawberries.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

This recipe serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup egg substitute or 2 large eggs
- 3 egg whites
- 1/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 4 slices multi-grain bread
- 3 tbsp pure maple syrup
- 1 tbsp sifted icing sugar
- 1/2 cup sliced strawberries

Nutritional analysis

Per one slice

- 107 calories
- 6.3 g protein
- 1.3 g fat
- 0.4 g saturated fat
- 16 g carbohydrates
- 3.8 mg cholesterol
- 160 mg sodium
- 2.4 g fibre

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Sometimes getting a fresh breakfast on the table without being late for work or school isn't possible. But be careful with the alternatives.

Aunt Jemima Croissant Egg Sandwich

350 calories/ 23 g fat
Egg and cheese are the only safe items in this frozen breakfast. The croissant and sausage contain the majority of calories and fat.

Equivalent

One Aunt Jemima Croissant Egg Sandwich is equal in fat to almost six marshmallow dream bars from Starbucks.

Smart One's English Muffin with Egg, Cheese and Bacon

210 calories/ 6 g fat
Egg whites are used, reducing calories and fat.

The In-Credibility Factor

Name: Daniel Torjman
City: Toronto
Age: 33
Occupation: Designer, founder of clothing and accessory brand 18 Waits

THE IN-CREDIBILITY FACTOR
Teresa Kruze
life@metronews.ca

Daniel Torjman. LEETA HARDING

Torjman was working in the fashion industry in New York when he decided to move back to Canada and strike out on his own. He founded 18 Waits, and now his clothing and accessories are featured in high-end North American stores, like Holt Renfrew, and around the world in China, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

I knew I was on my way when... we brought our collection to sell at a very well regarded trade show in Paris and New York and it was incredibly well-received. We showed alongside the best brands in the world for buyers who came from all over the world and everyone loved our brand and collection. It was pretty exciting as the people who walk these shows are educated, skilled and acutely aware of what's happening in the fashion world on an international level. And we fit right in.

Action Plan

• Be well organized. It's so easy for things to get out of hand — and quickly — when starting a business. Set up a good system of organization right off the bat so you're off to a good start and not trying to clean up messes down the road.

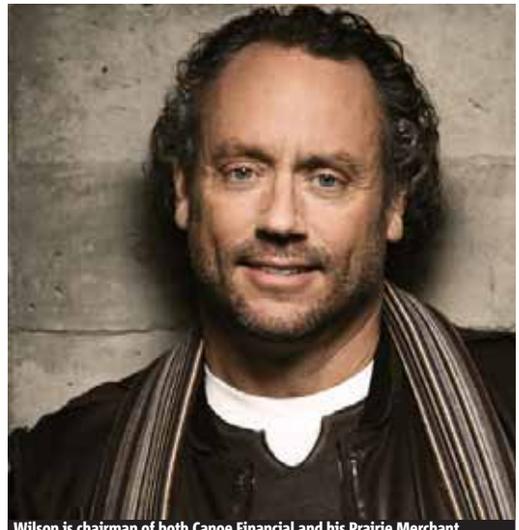
• Surround yourself with the right people. Don't have an ego about it. Find great people to work with and let them do what they're best at without getting in their way.

• Don't give up. It doesn't matter what industry you're in; starting and running your own business is not easy. But if your goal or dream is to do it then all the work is worth it. Don't get frustrated by small failings or not succeeding as fast as you would have hoped. It takes a few years for a business to really find its legs and start working. Lastly, work your ass off. Because that's what it takes to make it work. If you love what you do — which I do — the work is fun and exciting, as opposed to laborious and boring. Love what you do and then work your ass off doing it.

There's magic in your mistakes

Telling it like it is.
W. Brett Wilson tackles the tough side of getting to the top

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
life@metronews.ca



Wilson is chairman of both Canoe Financial and his Prairie Merchant Corporation and is a member of the Order of Canada. HEATHER FRITZ

Dragons' Den co-star and Risky Business host W. Brett Wilson became one of Canada's top investment bankers, but learned the hard way that financial success and the respect of business peers can come at the price of losing health, family and friends.

In his new book Redefining Success, which is in stores tomorrow, Wilson tells the story of hitting the big-time financially while hitting rock-bottom personally, and what led him to redefine his life.

Metro caught up with Wilson to chat about success, business savvy and what it truly means to be satisfied.

If we're being completely honest, does one's personal life have to suffer at least marginally in order to climb the professional ladder?
Yes, there are sacrifices for sure because we can only do one thing at time and we have competing demands on our time. That simply drives home the relevance of setting priorities to steward ones time with.

What are three key warning signs that you are not balancing work and life properly?
There are many warning signs, but at the personal level when you aren't allocating time to your health, your family and your friends ... quite simply you are not balancing life and work very well.

If I were hoping to get you to invest in my small business idea, what could I tell you that would make you back out immediately?
If you told me the idea was new and you thought it was worth a "flyer" I would question for passion, for the concept and ability and interest in following through — meaning I am gonzo!

What has been the biggest risk you've ever taken in your professional life and did it yield positive or negative results?
The biggest risk I ever took, in the eyes of my family and friends and peers, was starting FirstEnergy — the energy-focused brokerage firm — as the entrepreneur. I was comfortable with the risk (it was my life's focus after all), but there were many doubters. Did it work out? Financially it was a success. Personally, it absorbed every waking hour, to the detriment of key relationships in my life.

Can you recall a moment in your life where you felt like you achieved success wholly and completely?
Success is hard to measure, therefore it's hard to respond to the question.

Have I achieved success? The last line in my book offers: "A successful man is one who has earned the respect and admiration of others." I would add, "especially that of his children." On that basis — I hope I have achieved success. I know my life's work is far from done.

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Been dreaming in digital?

Educating the e-world. Graduates in this growing field don't just know their gear, they get the global picture

BRUCE WALSH
life@metronews.ca

Cynthia Baron directs the master of professional studies in digital media program at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. Like most graduate degrees of this kind, the Northeastern program only emerged in the past few years. She sat down with Metro to discuss this budding field of study.

Could you turn your fascination with computers into a full-time career? ISTOCK

Digital media studies are relatively new to the landscape of graduate degrees. Why have so many schools developed these programs?
I think it's pretty obvious that it's market-driven in the sense that more and more of our lives are touched by digital technology.

There's a big difference between understanding how to use a piece of software and why you would design it that way. And, when you put different processes together, it becomes very complicated.

There wasn't a place to study this in any one academic discipline.

Schools wanted to look at this phenomenon as a whole, instead of trying to do it piecemeal with added classes here and there in other areas of study.

What's the biggest misconception about graduate-level degrees in digital media?
People say, "Why do you need a degree in digital media? Couldn't I just take courses to learn how to use software?"

You could, but that doesn't make you a digital media professional. That's like me saying I know how to use Microsoft Word, so that makes me a writer.

Are there fellowship opportunities in this field of study?
Fellowships in these areas are hard to come by. Most programs that do provide fellowships or TA positions offer them to a small number of students.

The vast majority of students in digital media fund their education through student loans.

Careers

Where do I go from here?

Cynthia Baron tells us what jobs digital media students wind up in?

"Interactive design, game design, web design, handheld media products, digital video, photography, 3D animation, web-based journalism. But, often, people come to us from specific fields — programming, engineering, art, design, communications, teaching — and they're looking to go back with a new skill set," she says.

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With more than 20 different nationalities represented on its campus, LCIV offers a friendly and welcoming multicultural atmosphere. Due to the limited number of students per class, our teachers can dedicate more time to each student ensuring an exclusive and highly personalized education. Furthermore, LCIV is fully accredited by the Private Career Training Institutions Agency of British Columbia. This designation gives assurance to students that high standards are met with regard to training facilities, instructor qualifications, curriculum, assessment processes and general operations.

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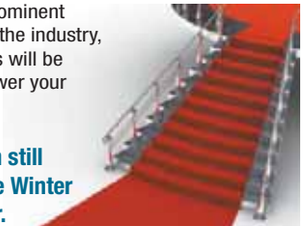

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MAKE IT HAPPEN!

SPORTS 4

Lions' Bighill making big strides

CFL. Middle linebacker a dominant figure in B.C. defence that led league in 18 major categories

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Lions linebacker Adam Bighill helps teammate Anthony Reddick tackle Roughriders receiver Aaron Hargreaves during Saturday's CFL game at BC Place. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

At the start of June, Adam Bighill was battling for the starting middle linebacker position with the B.C. Lions.

Five months later, he has finished the regular season as the team leader in tackles with 104.

Bighill climbed over the 100 mark in that category in the season finale, a 17-6 Lions win over the Saskatchewan Roughriders Saturday night at BC Place.

"When camp started, all I wanted to do was win a starting job. That's all I was focused on," said Bighill.

"I had no intentions of, 'Hey, I'm going to be the defensive player of the year, I'm going to lead the team in tackles.' All I wanted to do was get on the field with these guys around me and play ball, and so everything that's come to me I did not see coming and I just played my heart out."

A product of Central Washington University, the 24-year-old Bighill saw his share of time on the Lions defence a year ago, but was held mostly to special teams.

Solomon Elimimian was the Lions' middle linebacker and one of the fiercest hitters in the Canadian game.

But when Elimimian opted to try his hand in the NFL — he was released by the Minnesota Vikings and Cleveland Browns before returning to the CFL and the Lions — Bighill got his big break.

He's made the most of it, becoming the Lions' nominee for the CFL's most outstanding defensive player award.

Bighill recorded his fourth interception of the season Saturday, and finished the year with nine sacks.

His 104 tackles are second in the league behind Edmonton Eskimos linebacker J.C. Sherritt, who finished the year with 130, breaking the previous record of 129 held by Calvin Tiggle from the 1994 CFL season.

"If someone said they're not slightly surprised, they'd be lying to you," Lions head coach Mike Benevides said of Bighill.

"When you take a look at his performance he's been outstanding since Day 1, since he earned the job."

In many ways, Bighill's dominant sophomore campaign emulated that of a Lions defence that was simply staggering.

The Lions led the CFL in 18 of 25 defensive categories, including fewest touchdowns allowed with 27 — the Lions defence didn't allow a major score in four separate games, including a streak of three in a row from July 28 to Aug. 19 — and fewest points allowed with 354.

"You can't say enough about that defence," said Benevides. "That defence is a legendary B.C. Lion defence, statistically."

Field hockey. UBC women claim McCrae Cup in T.O.

The UBC Thunderbirds women's field hockey team won the 2012 CIS championship Sunday, claiming its 14th McCrae Cup in the school's history.

Sara McManus recorded the hat trick and Bea Francisco the shutout for the Thunderbirds, as they defeated the Toronto Varsity Blues 3-0 in the gold-medal game at Varsity Centre at the University of Toronto.

UBC finished with a 4-0-1 record in the CIS championships, and went 8-0 during the regular season.

CIS championship

UBC	U of T
3	0

METRO

WHL. Giants' road trip ends ugly in Tri-City

The Vancouver Giants lost 9-1 to the Tri-City Americans Sunday evening, ending a five-game road trip over a seven-day period.

The Giants, winners by a score of 6-3 Saturday night against the Kootenay Ice, fell behind 2-0 to the Americans after the first period before Tri-City broke the game wide open with five goals in the middle frame.

Trevor Cheek scored the lone Giants goal.

Sunday's game

Americans	Giants
9	1

The Giants ended the trip with a 2-3 record. They host the Portland Winterhawks Friday at the Pacific Coliseum. METRO

AHL

Heat staying hot at home this season

Troy Ward has preached creating a team identity at home. Nine games into his second season as head coach of the Abbotsford Heat, his plan is coming to fruition.

The Heat are coming off a sweep of the Toronto Marlies in a two-game mini-series that culminated with a 4-2 win Friday night before a crowd of 4,655 fans at the Abbotsford Entertainment and Sports Centre.

The Heat, affiliates of the Calgary Flames, are now 5-0-0-1 on home ice this season, outscoring the opposition 23-9 in the process.

The only blip so far in that record is a 3-2 shootout loss to the Chicago Wolves, the Vancouver Canucks' AHL affiliate.

"One thing that has happened ... is we have enough guys back from last year, and they really understand the system and have played really good hockey for us," said Ward in a phone interview Sunday afternoon.

"I'm really pleased. It's somewhat of a new group and they've come together quickly and efficiently."

While the formula for success at the AESC is beginning to show, Ward and his coaching staff have also been tasked with juggling a unique three-headed monster at the goaltender position.

Barry Brust, Leland Irving, the Flames' 2006 first-round pick and top goalie prospect, and Danny Taylor have all shared the crease duties, much like a starting-pitchers rotation in baseball, said Ward.

On Thursday Brust pitched a 22-save shutout, while Taylor, the team leader in wins with three, was a healthy scratch.

The next night Irving made 25 stops in the win, which concluded the second meeting between the Heat and Marlies since Toronto knocked Abbotsford out of the Calder Cup playoffs in the Western Conference semifinal.

"They deserve all the credit," said Ward. "They've been patient and understand the method of madness." CAM TUCKER/METRO

Heat goalie Leland Irving with the Calgary Flames last December. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Marathon meeting offers some hope in lockout negotiations

NHL. No. 2 men from league and players' union have 'frank discussion,' pave way for bargaining sessions to resume

The conversation is flowing again between the NHL and NHL Players' Association.

A marathon meeting between deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr stretched from Saturday afternoon into the early hours of Sunday morning, and was followed by some encouraging news: The sides expect to return to the bargaining table again soon.

"We met on and off for most of the day and covered a lot of ground," Daly told The Canadian Press via email. "We plan to meet again early in the week."

Daly and Fehr got together at an undisclosed location in an effort to shield themselves from the media spotlight and start finding a way forward in negotiations. The session included "good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," according to Daly.

It represented a significant departure in protocol from the last few months, when the parties rarely sat down together for more than an hour or two at a time. The meeting was also unique because it included just the No. 2 men from the league and union, perhaps offering a harbinger of better times ahead (Daly and former NHLPA deputy Ted Saskin laid the groundwork for the deal that ended the 2004-05 lockout).

There was certainly a positive feeling in the air afterwards, with Fehr saying in a statement that he agreed with how Daly summed up the session.

"Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group, and make steady progress," added Fehr.

There had been no signs of progress since the sides last met in mid-October. In fact, the news had all been negative, with a deadline to salvage an 82-game season passing, the NHL calling off all games through Nov. 30 and an announcement Friday that the Jan. 1 Winter Classic at Michigan Stadium was being postponed, likely until next season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quiet arenas

The 50-day lockout has already seen 326 regular-season games cancelled, pushing the total number lost by the NHL to work stoppages over the last two decades over 2,000.

MLS

Earthquakes get edge on Galaxy

Victor Bernadez scored on a free kick deep into stoppage time Sunday night to lift the San Jose Earthquakes to a 1-0 triumph over the Los Angeles Galaxy in the opener of their Western Conference semifinal series.

The second leg in the aggregate series is Wednesday in Santa Clara with the winner advancing to a home-and-home matchup with the Seattle Sounders or Real Salt Lake for a berth in the Dec. 1 MLS Cup final. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Jose keeper Jon Busch celebrates a win over the L.A. Galaxy in the first leg of their semifinal on Sunday in Carson, Calif. GETTY IMAGES

Formula 1

Title race open after Raikkonen wins in Abu Dhabi

Kimi Raikkonen won a crash-filled Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday for his first victory since returning to Formula One this year, a result which throws open the drivers' championship with two races remaining.

Raikkonen, the 2007 champion who drives for Lotus, overtook Red Bull's Mark Webber at the start to move into second. He took the lead on the 20th lap when McLaren's Lewis Hamilton retired because of an electrical problem.

Raikkonen held off Ferrari's Fernando Alonso, who finished second. Two-time defending champion Sebastian Vettel clawed back from last to finish third, his lead over Alonso cut to 10 points.

"I'm very happy for the team and myself but mainly for the team," said Raikkonen, who last won a race in 2009 with Ferrari. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luck's record-setting day leads Colts past Dolphins

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck pitches the ball to Dwayne Allen while under pressure against the Miami Dolphins on Sunday in Indianapolis. Luck threw for 433 yards and two TD passes, breaking Cam Newton's single-game passing record (422 yards) for a rookie as he led the Colts to a 23-20 victory over Miami. JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES

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Golf

Guan ready to take on Masters at 14

Guan Tianlang is an eighth-grader from China who barely weighs 125 pounds and doesn't hit the golf ball far enough to reach some par fours. The next stop for the 14-year-old prodigy will be the Masters, where he will tee it up with Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Bubba Watson at Augusta National.

Guan completed a wire-to-wire victory Sunday in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, making a five-foot par putt on the final hole at Amata Spring Country Club for a one-shot win that earned him an invitation to the Masters.

"I'm really excited about it," Guan said after closing with a 1-under 71. "I will be training maybe a little bit harder and get some more power for that because I'm still growing right now. So it will be great fun."

He is believed to be the youngest male to play in a major championship. Andy Zhang of China was 14 years six months when he qualified for the U.S. Open last summer. Guan would be about a month younger.

Woods could have seen this coming.

Two years ago, Woods was playing in the HSBC Champions pro-am in Shanghai when Guan was in a group of juniors. Woods was amazed not only at the polished swing of the 12-year-old, but the poise Guan showed at performing in front of more than a thousand people in the gallery, and with Woods, a 14-time major champion.

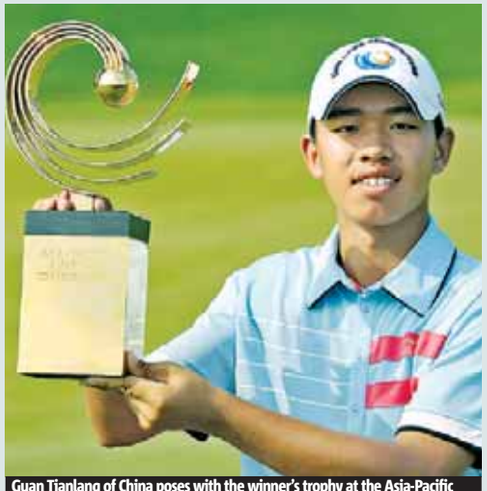
Guan first got attention last year at the Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego when he won his age division (11-12) by 11 shots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

4

Guan started playing when he was 4, going to the golf course with his parents. He goes to California for about three months during the year, staying with relatives in Los Angeles and San Diego to train.



Guan Tianlang of China poses with the winner's trophy at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in Chonburi, Thailand, on Sunday. PAUL LAKATOS/AAC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lakers get back on script vs. the Pistons

CFL. Kobe Bryant takes on playmaking role with Steve Nash out with a leg injury

Sunday's Game

Lakers	Pistons
108	79

Dwight Howard scored 28 points, Kobe Bryant had 15 points and eight assists, and the Los Angeles Lakers finally got their first victory of the season, 108-79, over the winless Detroit Pistons on Sunday night.

Metta World Peace scored 18 points and Pau Gasol added 14 for the Lakers, who went 0-8 in the pre-season and started the regular season 0-3 for just the fourth time in franchise history despite adding Howard and Steve Nash over the summer.

The Lakers' growing worries about their new offence and their roster's durability vanished for a day against the struggling Pistons, who never led.

Jonas Jerebko scored 18 points for Detroit in the second stop on a difficult six-game road trip.

Los Angeles took a 28-point lead in the first half and stretched it to 36 points in the third quarter, with Howard dominating the paint and Bryant slipping easily into a playmaking role in the injured Nash's absence.

The Lakers earned their first victory in nearly five weeks together since the start of training camp, and they occasionally resembled the powerhouse most expected to see this season — even if it's without Nash, who missed his second straight game with a small fracture in his left leg.

Howard excelled in the paint against Greg Monroe, hitting 12 of 14 shots — most of them right at the rim — and grabbing seven rebounds with just one foul. Bryant appeared to play easily on his sore foot, taking just 10 shots and grabbing seven rebounds.

The Lakers starters played only token minutes in the fourth quarter, giving them valuable rest before Wednesday's trip to Utah.

The Lakers began the regular season by dropping games to Dallas, Portland and the Clippers, but they've only started a season 0-4 once in franchise history — and that was in 1957, back in Minneapolis. Los Angeles hadn't even started a season 0-3 since 1978 — but that team won 15 of its next 16 games.

While the Lakers wait a week to learn the severity of Nash's injury, Steve Blake had six assists and a career-high-tying five steals in his starting spot. Backup Darius Morris also played well with six points, but Gasol and Bryant are likely to be the Lakers' most important playmakers until Nash returns.

Detroit's five starters all struggled mightily, going a combined 11 for 39 — including Brandon Knight's 1-for-8 performance. Rodney Stuckey's shooting slump reached three games, with the starting guard going 0 for 6 to drop to 1 for 23 this season.

The Pistons must travel to Denver for a game Tuesday, only to return to California to face the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday before heading back out to Oklahoma City.

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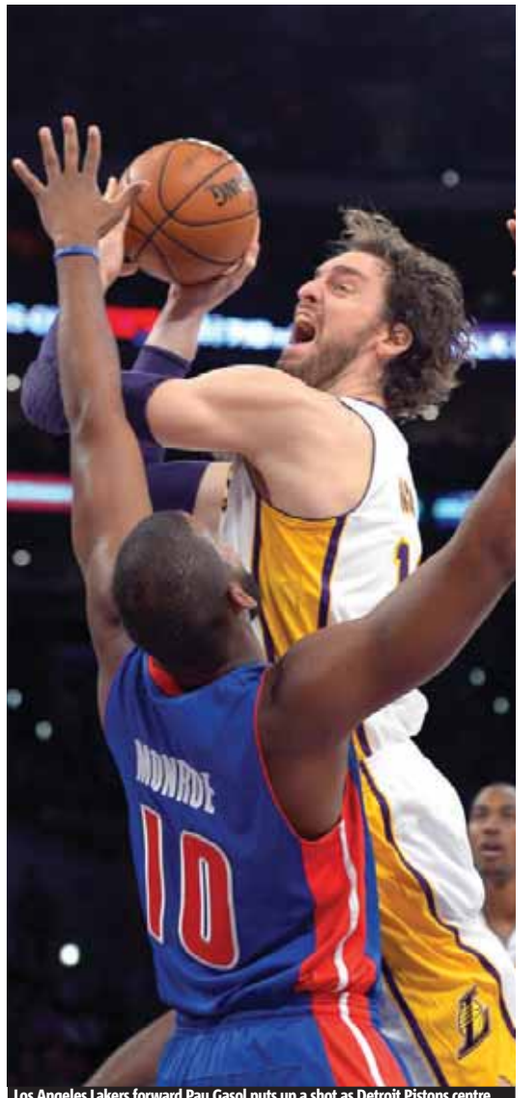


Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol puts up a shot as Detroit Pistons centre Greg Monroe defends on Sunday in Los Angeles. MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Raptors tee off on T-Wolves for win No. 1

Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan each scored 22 points, Alan Anderson had 18 and the Toronto Raptors earned their first victory of the season Sunday night, beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 105-86.

Andrea Bargnani scored 10 points as the Raptors extended Minnesota's miserable record against Toronto. The Raptors have won 15 of the past 16 meetings, including nine straight at home. Minnesota has not won in Toronto since Jan. 21, 2004.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 17 points and Nikola Pekovic had 15 for the Timberwolves, who were outscored 26-13 in the fourth quarter, making just four of 16 field-goal attempts.

Derrick Williams had nine points and eight rebounds for Minnesota, who are without injured forward Kevin Love (broken hand) and guard Ricky Rubio (left knee).

Winless in two games coming in, Toronto was playing the second game of two straight. The Raptors lost 107-100 at Brooklyn on Saturday night, the Nets' first game in their new home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Someone will introduce you to a new idea today and while it may be a bit uncomfortable you will benefit intellectually. But don't get too radical in your thinking: the answers you seek are mainly in the middle ground.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Unexpected developments will throw up new challenges and opportunities over the next few days. Are you ready for them? Are you willing to adapt? Only those who know how to think and act fast will gain in the long-term.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Your ability to visualize what it is you want to accomplish will make things easy for you this coming week. Others may say you are chasing rainbows, and maybe you are, but at least you have a dream of some sort.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Although you may want to comfort someone who has a whole load of personal problems don't make it look as if you condone their negative behavior. Overall, they have only themselves to blame. Sad but true.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you don't ask you won't get, so speak up and let others know what it is you want from them. Their response may not be entirely positive but it won't be entirely negative either. You'll get something at least.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The planets warn there is still a lot of work to be done to get from where you are now to where you most want to be. The good news is you have a clearly defined goal and can start working towards it.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You won't be short of ideas and you won't be short of opinions. The one thing you may be short of is the ability to see that not everyone thinks the same way as you. What happened to your Libra sense of balance?

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try not to lapse into negative patterns of behavior, especially where money matters are concerned. If you think you are going to lose out in some way your thoughts will create circumstances that are likely to make it happen.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some people seem to think that your main task in life is to look after them. It's about time you let them know it isn't true. Cut off assistance today and let them fend for themselves. In the long-term it will do them good.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Differences of opinion on the work front need to be resolved this week. Colleagues and employers are ready to talk business but are reluctant to make the first move. Fortunately you're much braver than they are.

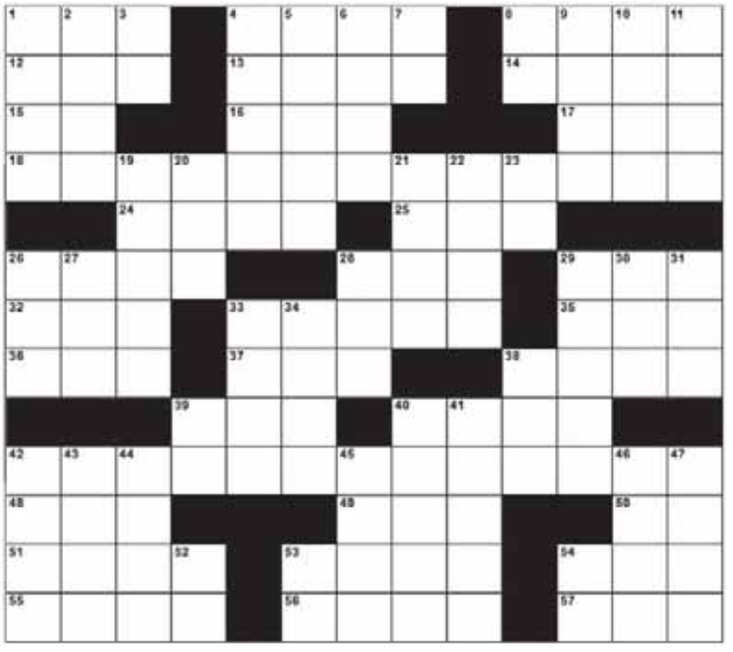
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you can get away at short notice this is a good time to travel, but if you are stuck in one place there are other ways you can make life interesting. Use your imagination. What you think today you'll be doing tomorrow.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You seem to believe that someone is plotting against you. Common sense should tell you there is nothing to fear

SALLY BROMPTON

Canadian Crossword

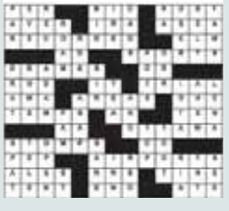
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Football official
4. Dick and Jane's dog
8. Leave out
12. Appendage
13. Docile
14. Arson
15. Circle ratio
16. Actress Gardner
17. Negative vote
18. Flighty fellows
24. Enemies
25. Chat room access provider
26. Construction area
28. Many thousand (abbr.)
29. Form of address
32. High card
33. Hillock
35. Afternoon social
36. Actor James Van – Beek
37. Three, in Rome
38. Quiet!
39. Possess
40. College official
42. Insatiable Sesame Street character (2 words)
48. Decide on
49. Picnic pest
50. Egyptian Sun God
51. Den
53. Fragrance
54. Brand name for pens
55. As well as
56. Extremely
57. — Haw

Down
1. Knocks sharply
2. Actor McCormack
3. Radio dial
4. Avow
5. Re-tars the road
6. Actor Epps of House, M.D.
7. — Deum
8. "East – Eden"
9. Skirt length
10. Neighbour of Iraq
11. Golf gadgets
19. Comes up next
20. Digit
21. Remove water
22. Dinner accompaniment
23. Actor Pacino
26. Dismal
27. Keeps drinks cold
28. Me, to Miss Piggy
29. Dangerous feat
30. Plural ending
31. Cheer
33. New Zealand fruit
34. Star Trek: Deep Space —
38. This Hour — 22 Minutes
39. Give the go-ahead
40. Blood giver
41. Access
42. Type of pop
43. October birthstone
44. Elevator maker
45. Erected
46. Great lake bordering Lake Ontario
47. The Amazing —
52. Former co-host of The View (init.)
53. Ottawa valley (abbr.)
54. Old time "Road to...." actor (init.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

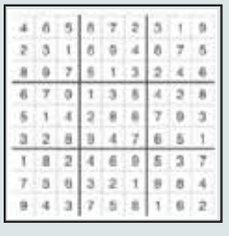
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

2		4		7		5		6
			4			3	8	1
			9	6				5
7			3		8			9
1				5	2			
8	6	3			4			
4		5		9		1		2

Yesterday's Sudoku



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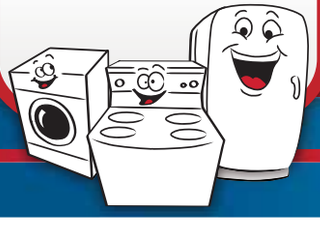

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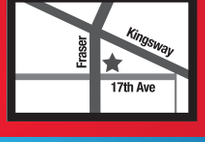

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